

**Testimony of John Westlake
Coventry, CT
March 14th, 2022**

S.B. No 16, AN ACT ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE AND JUVENILE CRIME

Co Chairs Winfield and Stafstrom, Ranking Member Kissel and Fishbine, and Distinguished Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to S.B. No. 16.

I hail from a long line of proud Yankees. Pragmatic and commonsensical. The "You can't get there from here" crew. We're not happy with this most recent attempt at infringement of our God given right to self defense, and this is why -

This Bill is discriminatory as it targets the law abiding citizens of the State of Connecticut, and provided no new attempt to actually curb violent crime.

FACT - the use of a firearm during the committing of a crime is already illegal. How many ways does this need to be reiterated?

What my rifle looks like has no impact on how it is capable of defending me. It fires one bullet at a time, with each squeeze of the trigger. How long it is, or how short, has no impact on the final result. Pistol grips or types of stocks, have no impact. It is no different than Barney Fife's revolver - fires one bullet with each pull of the trigger. Military features? Does a bayonet lug make it any more dangerous than it already is? Pistol grips? Forward grips? Banning these features makes it clear you intend to ban accuracy, yet precision target pistols and rifles are readily available.

Over-regulation, which this Bill clearly represents, is an infringement on our God given rights to self defense.

It renders this Bill unconstitutional.

With that being said, I ask that this Bill be tabled to allow further scrutiny, to determine if it might contain elements that fall within the constraints of the US Constitution.

Until then I cannot support such legislation, and implore you not to as well.

With Kind Regards,

John Westlake
Coventry, CT

